

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

Type all entries—complete applicable sections

N. H. L. 28 July '83

## 1. Name

historic Mencken, H. L., House

and or common Mencken, H. L., House

## 2. Location

street &amp; number 1524 Hollins Street

N/A not for publication

city, town Baltimore N/A vicinity of Cong. Dist.: Seventh

state Maryland code county independent city code 510

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture <input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial <input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> educational <input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment <input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government <input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial <input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military <input type="checkbox"/> other:

## 4. Owner of Property

name University of Maryland, Dr. John S. Toll, President

street &amp; number Elkins Building, Room 2C

city, town College Park N/A vicinity of state Maryland 20742

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore City Courthouse

street &amp; number North Calvert Street

city, town Baltimore state Maryland 21201

## 6. Representation in Existing Surveys

Maryland Historical Trust

Historic Sites Inventory

has this property been determined eligible? ☐ yes ☒ nodate 1975 ☐ federal ☒ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records Maryland Historical Trust, 21 State Circle

city, town Annapolis state Maryland 21401

## 7. Description

B-926

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

### DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The H. L. Mencken House is a typical middle-class Baltimore row house of the late nineteenth century. Built in the early 1880s, the house is characteristically of brick construction with Italianate decorative detailing. The facade or south elevation is three stories high, three bays wide, crowned by a bracketed cornice, and rests on a marble foundation. A garden enclosed by a brick wall and wooden fencing and featuring a pergola and sculpture extends from the back of the house to Booth Street. Although some changes were made to the property in recent years, the house and garden remain intact for the period of Mencken's occupancy, 1883-1956.

### GENERAL DESCRIPTION

The H. L. Mencken House stands on the north side of Hollins Street in the western half of the block formed by Stricker and Gilmore Streets in the Union Square neighborhood of west Baltimore. The house fronts on Union Square and is one of a row of almost identical brick houses that borders the north edge of the park. The park was recently restored by the City of Baltimore to its turn-of-the-century appearance. The structure consists of a rectangularly shaped three-story main block with telescoping wing that projects from the rear or north elevation. The one-story extremity of the wing was built about 1923. The three-bay facade or south elevation has stretcher bonding, a decorated and bracketed wood cornice, rectangular shaped double-hung windows with one-over-one lights, a double-doored entranceway with a round arch transom and boldly molded surround, and marble foundation wall and entrance steps. The principal interior woodwork consists of architrave molding.

The house is entered through a small vestibule with paneled walls and marble flooring. Entrance into the main or stair hall is through a set of glazed double doors, one of which bears a brass plaque inscribed with Mencken's father's name. The stairhall is narrow and runs the length of the front parlor with a door at the end leading into the back parlor. The staircase has turned balusters and newels and decorated stepends and rises to the third floor. The front parlor is to the west through an arched doorway which has flush doors but apparently was doorless originally when it was built probably about 1923.

The front and back parlors are rectangularly shaped rooms set perpendicularly to each other. The front parlor has a chimney breast minus the mantel and fireplace opening that it is believed to have had originally. A gilded mirror with a low pier table at the bottom and a hood at the top stands between the two windows on the front or south side of the house. The hood motif is repeated in gilded valances above the windows. The ceiling in the front parlor is divided into panels by plaster strips and has a cornice and central molded medallion above a chandelier. The front and back parlors are connected by a rectangular doorway with paneled pocket doors.

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

B-926

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Mencken, H. L., House Item number 7 Page 1  
Baltimore City, Maryland

GENERAL DESCRIPTION (Continued)

A fireplace with a circa 1923 classical-influenced mantel and red tile is in the west wall of the back parlor. Along the north wall is a door leading into the wing and a jib-door leading into the garden. The back parlor was probably originally a dining room and has a plaster cornice. The ceiling in this room is otherwise undecorated except for a mid-twentieth century hanging light fixture.

The third room back on the first floor was last used during the Mencken occupancy as the dining room but probably was originally the kitchen. It is a small room in size and has narrow vertical board wainscoting. An enclosed staircase leading to the basement and the upper levels stands along the south wall. A double-doored closet with glazing is installed along the north wall.

The remaining space on the first floor was built in 1923 as kitchen and pantry. These rooms were renovated by the university and bear little resemblance to the Mencken period, except for window and door moldings.

On the second floor, the front room, which Mencken used during much of his life as a study, has an ell extending over the entrance hall. The woodwork is the original architrave type. This room also apparently had a mantel and fireplace opening originally. The ceiling has dropped acoustical tile, added by the university, which covers part of the window molding. The window molding, however, does not appear to have been damaged when the tile was installed. The back rooms of the second floor are devoid of decoration except for simple architrave molding. A new kitchen and bathroom were installed in this area by the university.

The front room on the third floor originally the size of the one below, is divided into two with the area above the entrance hall partitioned for use as a kitchen. The original baseboard and trim exists intact except for the kitchen area. A mantel in this room has inlaid decoration and appears not to be original but pre-1923. The back room on this floor is small in size and lined with bookcases.

The integrity of the house is high for the Mencken occupancy. Several photographs of the interior indicate that most of the changes noted above were made by the Menckens in modernizing the house. Ventilating units and associated piping added by the university are intrusions but the ventilation was installed in a manner to avoid damaging decorative plaster work.

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1883-1956

Builder/Architect

unknown Arch.: W. Claude Frederic

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

bldr: Jacob Saum

Am. Architect &amp; Bldg. News

28 July 1883 p. 47

SIGNIFICANCE SUMMARY

For nearly seventy years, this modest three-story brick row house on Union Square in west Baltimore was the residence of H. L. Mencken (1880-1956), a journalist who became one of the most influential editors, authors, essayists, and social critics in the United States in the first half of the twentieth century. The house, which remains intact, reflects the personal side of the man who as editor and co-founder of the American Mercury (1924-1933) and, earlier, editor of The Smart Set (1914-1924) enjoyed literary influence and fame and championed such new and bold American writers as Theodore Dreiser, James Branch Cabell, and Sinclair Lewis. Mencken was also the foremost authority on the American language through his multi-volumed The American Language.

Mencken: Biographical Notes

Henry Louis Mencken was born in Baltimore on September 12, 1880, the first of four children of August and Anna Mencken. His father and his uncle Henry, after whom he was named, ran a cigar factory in west Baltimore. At sixteen he graduated with honors from the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute, one of the city's leading public high schools, and reluctantly went to work in his father's factory. After the elder Mencken's death in 1899, he took a position with the Baltimore Morning Herald. In about three years, Mencken advanced from Southern Police District reporter to City Hall reporter to city editor of the paper. When the Baltimore fire of 1904 consumed the Herald building along with much of the city's center, Mencken put out the paper from three different places during the next week and contributed to what has been called the best contemporary account of the fire.

In 1906 the Herald failed, and Mencken joined the Baltimore Sun as its Sunday editor, contributing a column on the theater as well. In 1910, when the Evening Sun was launched, he went to work for its editorial page and soon began writing a daily column, "The Free Lance." The highly controversial column, primarily concerned with local issues, continued until 1917, when Mencken's pro-German sympathies - he had gone to Germany as a war correspondent and had advocated American entry on the German side - made it advisable for him to leave the paper temporarily. In 1920 he returned, and began a series of Monday editorial page articles which continued until 1938 and which dealt with every topic from national politics to local streetcars. He also continued to cover such major stories as the national political conventions and the Scopes trial in Tennessee in 1925.



B-926

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park ServiceNational Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Mencken, H. L., House

Continuation sheet Baltimore City, Maryland

Item number

8

Page

2

Mencken: Biographical Notes (Continued)

Mencken began to win national attention in 1914 when he and George Jean Nathan became coeditors of The Smart Set. In his newspaper and magazine essays, Mencken attacked virtually every aspect of American life - its culture, educational system, religious manias, politics, and the "booboisie," the word Mencken coined to describe the great American public. Mencken's first position with The Smart Set was as book editor. The magazine developed a serious reputation under Mencken. By the time Mencken and Nathan founded the American Mercury in 1924 with Alfred Knopf as publisher, Mencken was well established as a critic of national distinction and importance.<sup>1</sup> The American Mercury became the bible of college students and the American literary set of the 1920s.

Mencken's influence waned during the Depression partly because his irreverence and iconoclasm were better suited to the prosperity of the 1920s, and partly because he vigorously opposed Franklin D. Roosevelt and the New Deal. He had a dislike of government interference in the life of the citizen.

During the 1930s he worked on revisions and supplements to his monumental treatise The American Language, which had made him the foremost authority on the subject. He also contributed to The Sunpapers of Baltimore, published on the occasion of the Sun's centennial in 1937. In the early 1940s he produced three volumes of reminiscences, which Mencken lovers call "the Days books." In Happy Days, Newspaper Days, and Heathen Days, he eschewed political and social comment almost entirely and produced a superb if unconventional autobiographical work. In the fall of 1948, Mencken suffered a severe stroke, from which he appeared to recover physically, but he was left with an inability to read, write, or remember proper names. He died on January 26, 1956.

Mencken's best work includes his American Language volumes and the essays collected in the six-volume Prejudices (1919-27). He also wrote several book-length studies of subjects as varied as the playwright George Bernard Shaw (1905), the philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche (1908), women (1917), democracy (1926), and religion (1930). The first of his 30-odd books was a collection of poems called Ventures Into Verse.

Although he achieved the status of a national celebrity, Mencken never moved away from his beloved Baltimore. He had a strong appreciation of family life and took family responsibility seriously. At eighteen he assumed the official headship of the house on his father's unexpected death. At 21, he turned down the job of assistant editor of Leslie's Monthly because it meant moving from home to New York.<sup>2</sup> In later years, he customarily spent two or three days at his New York office, then returned to Hollins Street to pursue the orderly, quiet patten of his life.

The house at 1524 Hollins Street was an integral and vital part of Mencken's life. He wrote: "I have lived in one house in Baltimore for nearly forty-five years. It has changed in that time, as I have - but somehow it still remains the same. No conceivable decorator's masterpiece could give me the same ease. It is as much a part of me as my two hands. If I had to leave it I'd be as certainly crippled as if I lost a leg."<sup>3</sup> It had become so early in

B-926

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Mencken, H. L., House Item number 8 Page 3  
Baltimore City, Maryland

Mencken: Biographical Notes (Continued)

his life. Happy Days contains many references to life in the house and playing in the garden to which he always refers as yard.<sup>4</sup> He left the house for a period of five years, from 1930 to 1935, when he was married to Sara Haardt and they lived in an apartment at 704 Cathedral Street. Within a short time after Sara's death he moved back.

House: Historical Notes:

The house was purchased by August Mencken in 1883. It was constructed in the early 1880s as part of the development of the north side of Union Square. About 1923, a new kitchen was added and sections of the interior altered. Upon the death of August Mencken, Jr., the house was given to the University of Maryland which uses it for residences and offices. The University and the City of Baltimore are negotiating an exchange of the Mencken property for a city-owned property. The H. L. Mencken House would then be placed under the auspices of the Mencken Society, a 300-plus membership organization which honors the journalist.

Notes:

- <sup>1</sup>Charles A. Fecher, Mencken: A Study of His Thought. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1978), pp. 15-16.
- <sup>2</sup>Carl Bode, Mencken. (Carbondale, Ill.: Southern Illinois University Press, 1969), p. 15.
- <sup>3</sup>Fecher, p. 47.
- <sup>4</sup>H. L. Mencken, Happy Days; 1880-1892. (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1940), p. 7.

B-926

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet Mencken, H. L., House Item number 9 Page 4  
Baltimore City, Maryland

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bode, Carl, Mencken. Carbondale, Ill.:  
Southern Illinois University Press, 1969.

Bode, Carl, The Mencken House. Baltimore  
University of Maryland, n.d.

Fecher, Charles A. Mencken: A Study of His Thought.  
New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1940.

Maryland Historical Trust. State Historic Sites Inventory:  
Baltimore. "Mencken, H. L., House", B-926, 1975.

Mencken, H. L. Happy Days: 1880-1892.  
New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1940.

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

B-926

See Continuation Sheet No. 4

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property less than one acreQuadrangle name Baltimore West, MarylandQuadrangle scale 1:24,000

UTM References

A 

1	8	3	5	8	4	4	0	4	3	4	9	7	5	0
Zone		Easting				Northing								

B 

Zone		Easting				Northing								

C 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

D 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

E 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

F 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

G 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

H 

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

### Verbal boundary description and justification

The property measures 18' by 150' and consists of one rectangular city lot which is indicated on the enclosed map.

### List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	N/A	code	county	code
-------	-----	------	--------	------

state		code	county	code
-------	--	------	--------	------

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Ronald L. Andrews, National Register Administratororganization Maryland Historical Trustdate 12 April 1983street & number 21 State Circletelephone (301) 269-2438city or town Annapolisstate Maryland 21401

## 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

☒ national ☐ state ☐ local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICERdate 12 April 1983

For NPS use only

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration



B-926

Mencken, H. L., House  
1524 Hollins Street  
Baltimore, Maryland

Location Map, 1983  
not to scale

S. GILMOR ST.

HOLLINS

ST.

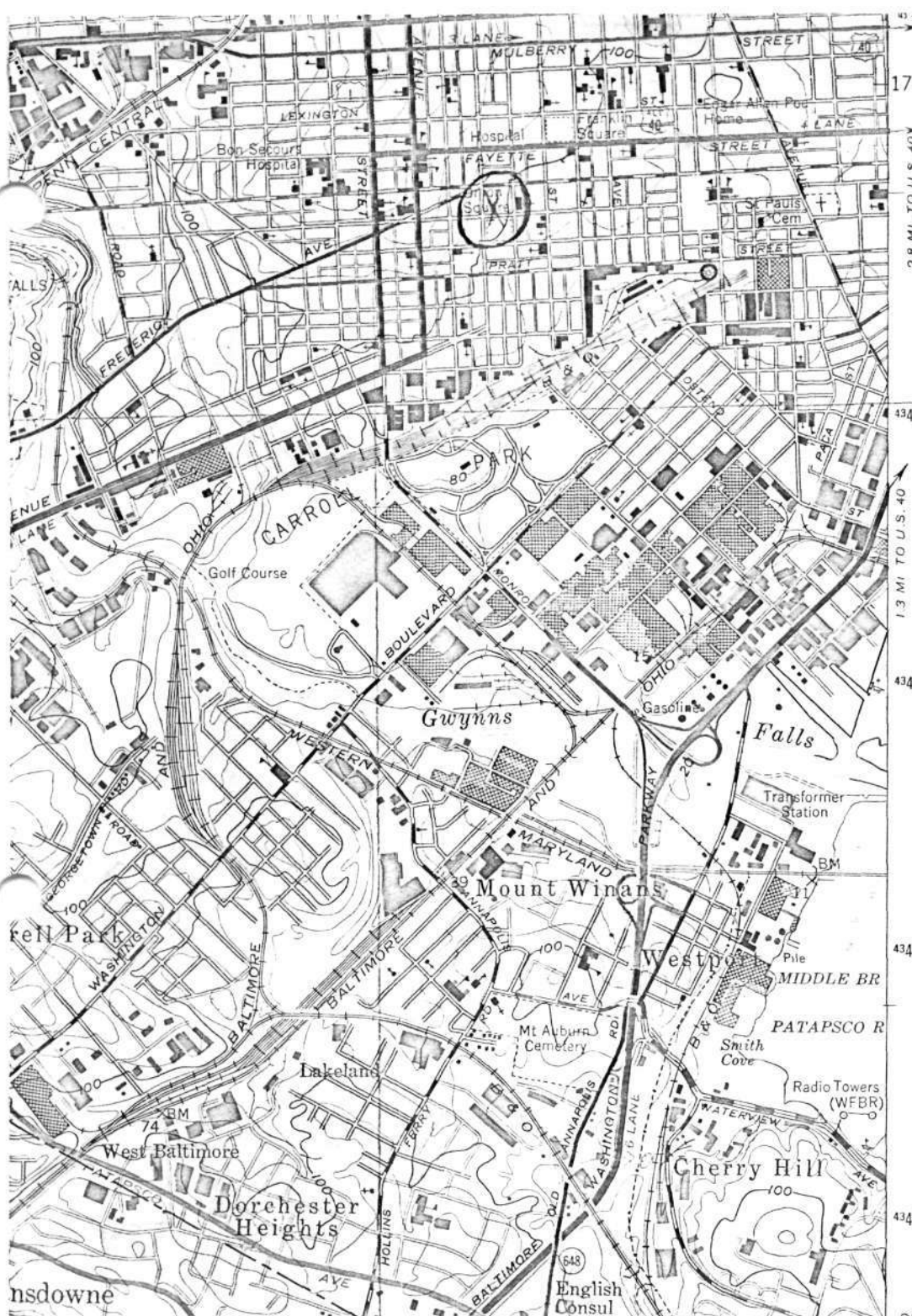
UNION SQUARE

BOOTH

ST.

1532	25	1530	22	1528	21	1526	18	1524	18	1522	18	1520	18	1518	17	1516	17	1514	17	1512	17	1510	17	1508	17	1506	17	1504	17	1502	23	1500	20.6
									Mencken																								

S. STRICKER ST.



17°30' B-926

Meyken, H.L., House  
Baltimore  
Maryland

A 18/358440/  
4349750

4349

4348

4347

4346000m N.

39°15'

76°37'30"

(CURTIS BAY)  
5662 17 NE

357000m E.

WASHINGTON, D.C. 29 MI.

INTERIOR-GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, RESTON, VIRGINIA-1975

GLEN BURNIE 6.2 MI.

#### ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Heavy-duty ——— Light-duty ———  
Medium-duty - - - - - Unimproved dirt - - - - -  
○ Interstate Route □ U.S. Route ○ State Route

### BALTIMORE WEST, MD.

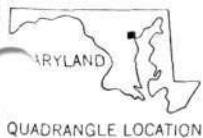
SW/4 BALTIMORE 15' QUADRANGLE

N3915-W7637.5/7.5

1953

PHOTOREVISED 1966 AND 1974

AMS 5662 1 SW-SERIES V833



QUADRANGLE LOCATION

1/20 Facade or south elevation of house





Mencken, H. L. House

1524 Hollins Street

Baltimore, Maryland

Photo date: 7 February 1983

Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Annapolis, MD

Facade entranceway

B-926

2/20





3/20 View east along 1500 block of Hollins  
Street with Masonic Hall

B-926



Mencken, H. L. House

1524 Hollins Street

Baltimore, Maryland

Photo date: 7 February 1983

Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

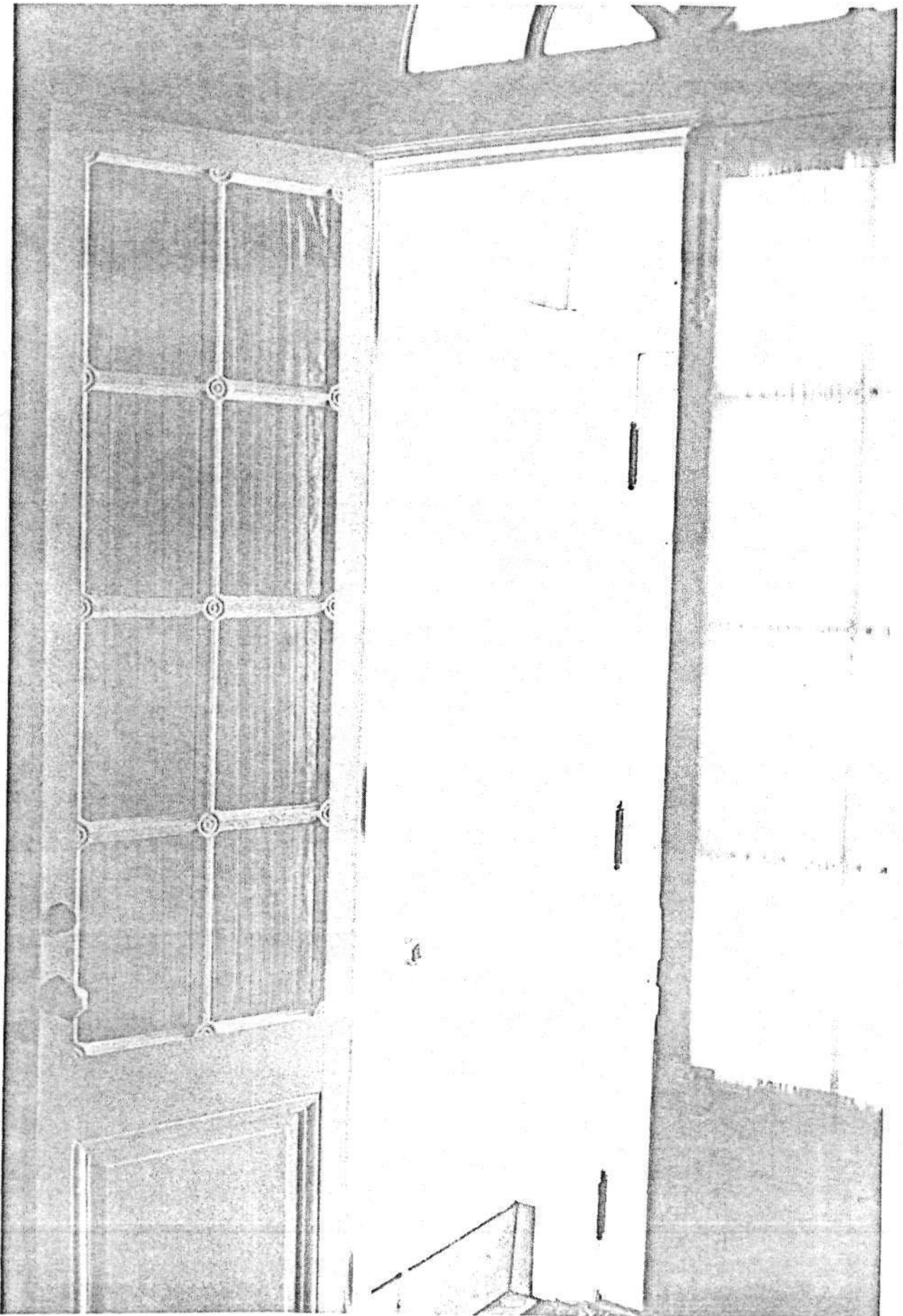
Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Annapolis, MD

View of 1500 block of Hollins Street from  
Union Square with Mencken House in center  
of photograph

4/20

B-926



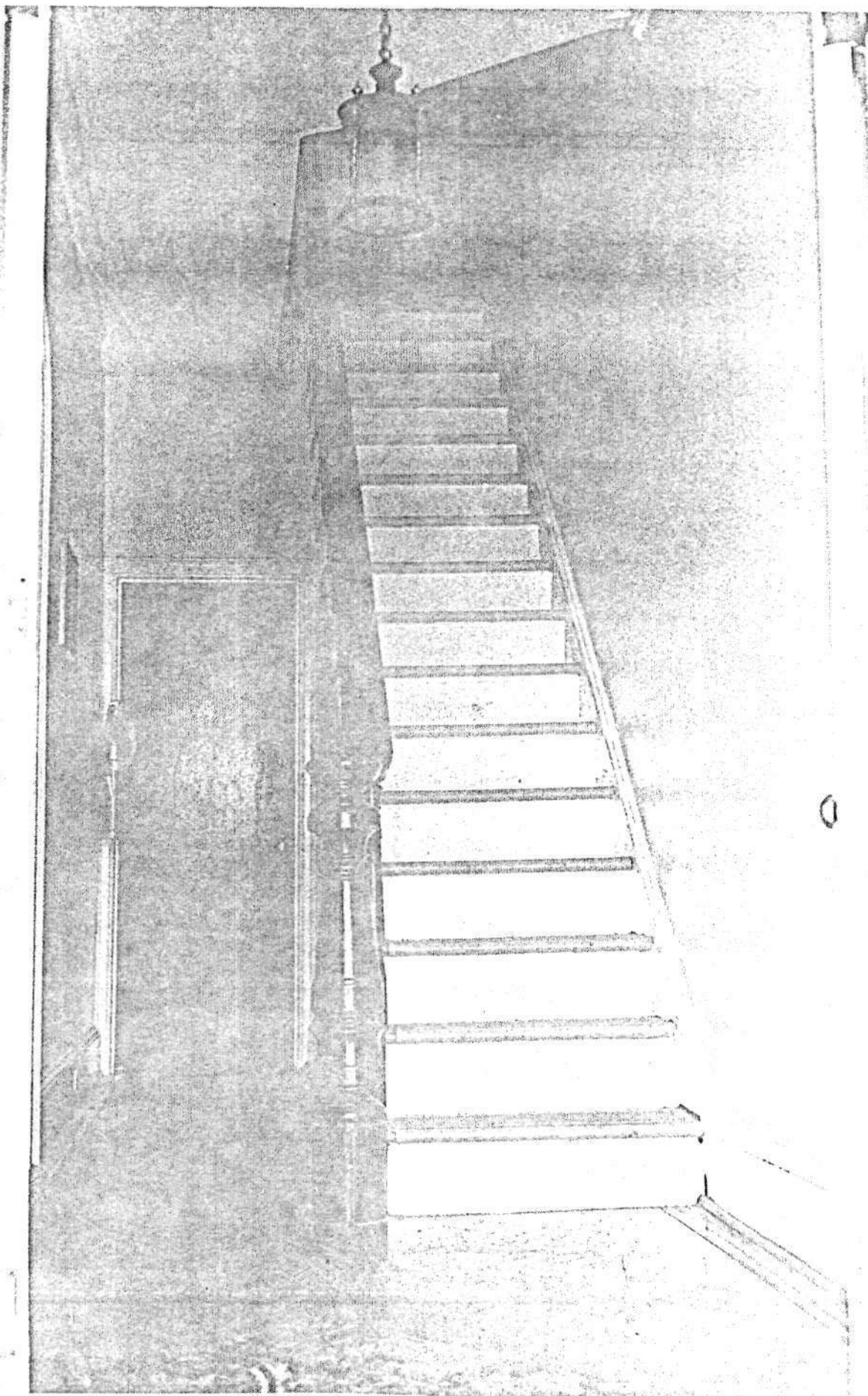
5/20 Interior, first floor, view of vestibule  
paneling and entrance doors

B-926



6/20 Interior, first floor, view of stairhall  
from vestibule, door at end of hall lead  
into back parlor

B-926





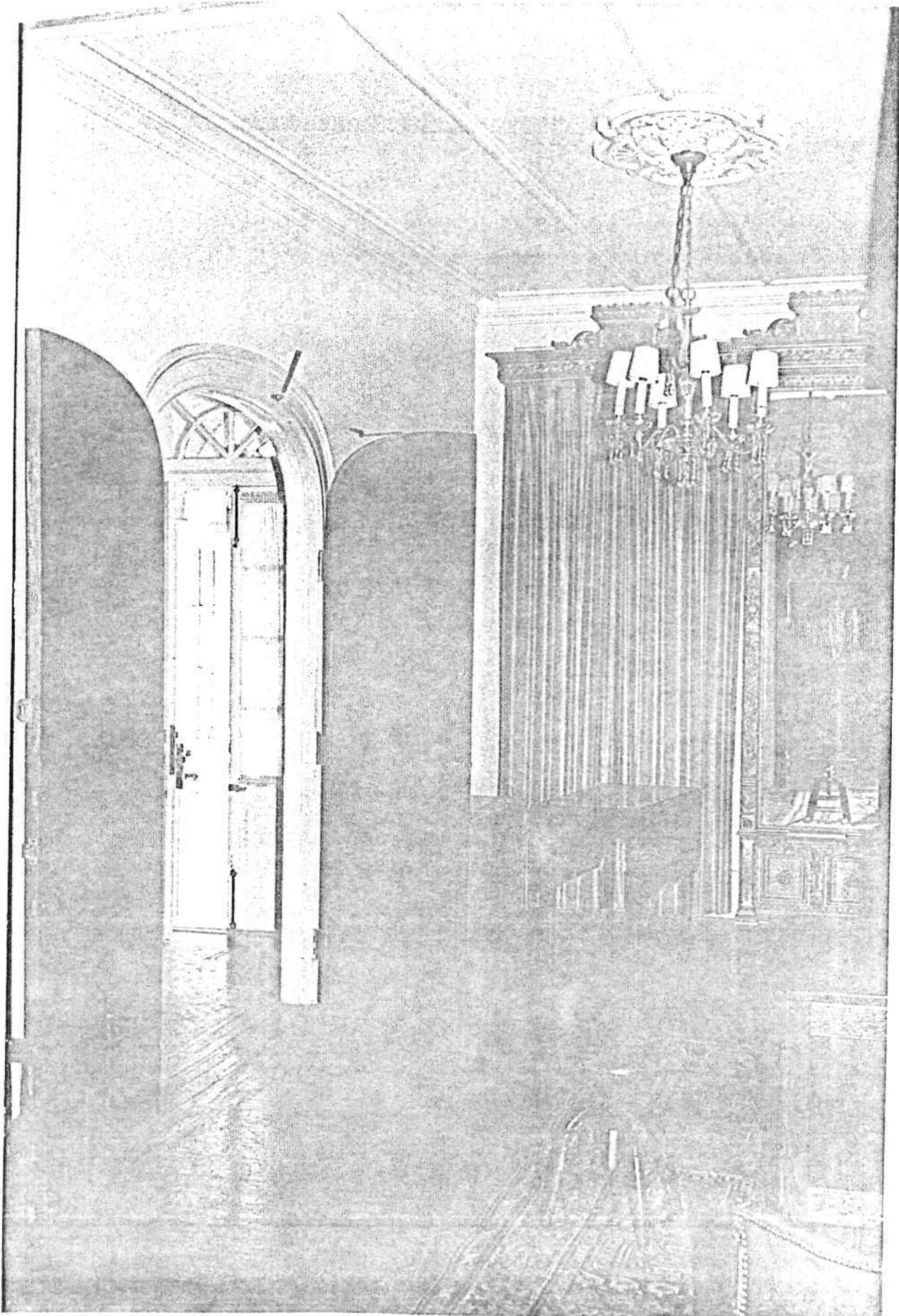


7/20 Interior first floor, view of stair hall  
and vestibule toward Union Square, plaque  
on vestibule door is inscribed with the  
name of Mencken's father

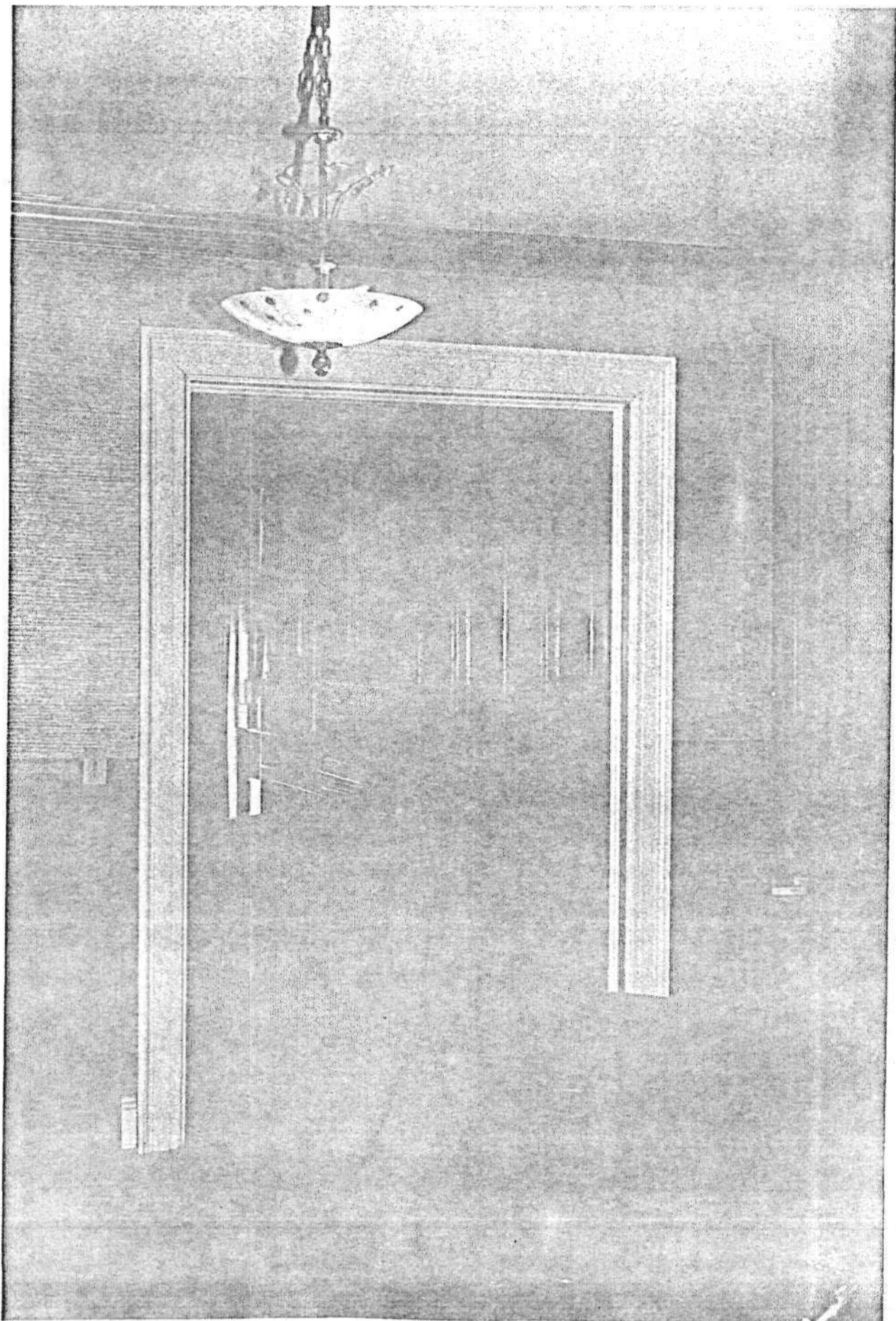
B-926

8/20 Interior, first floor, view of front porch  
with hall and vestibule visible through  
arched doorway

B-926



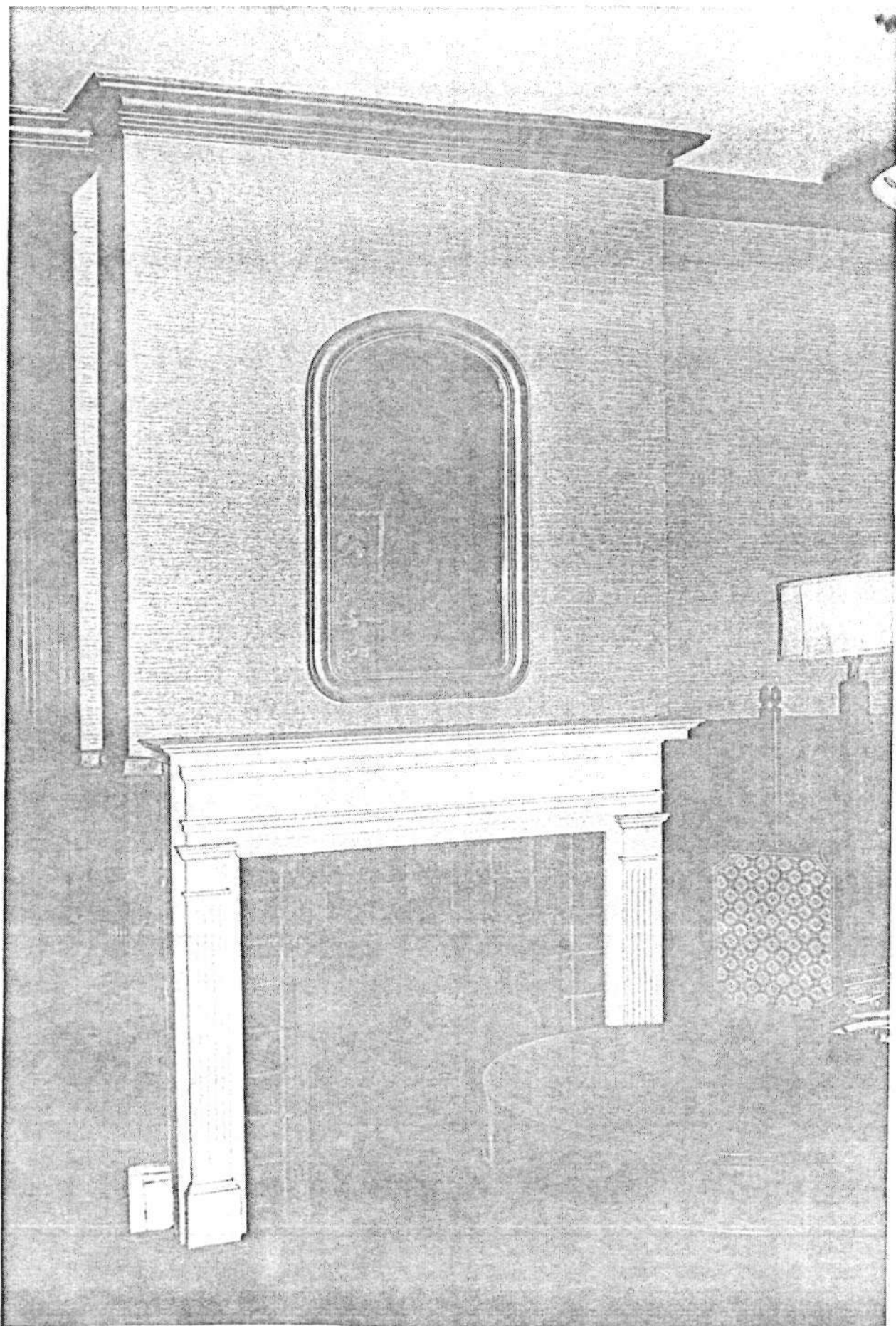
9/20 Interior, first floor, view from back  
parlor into front parlor



B-926

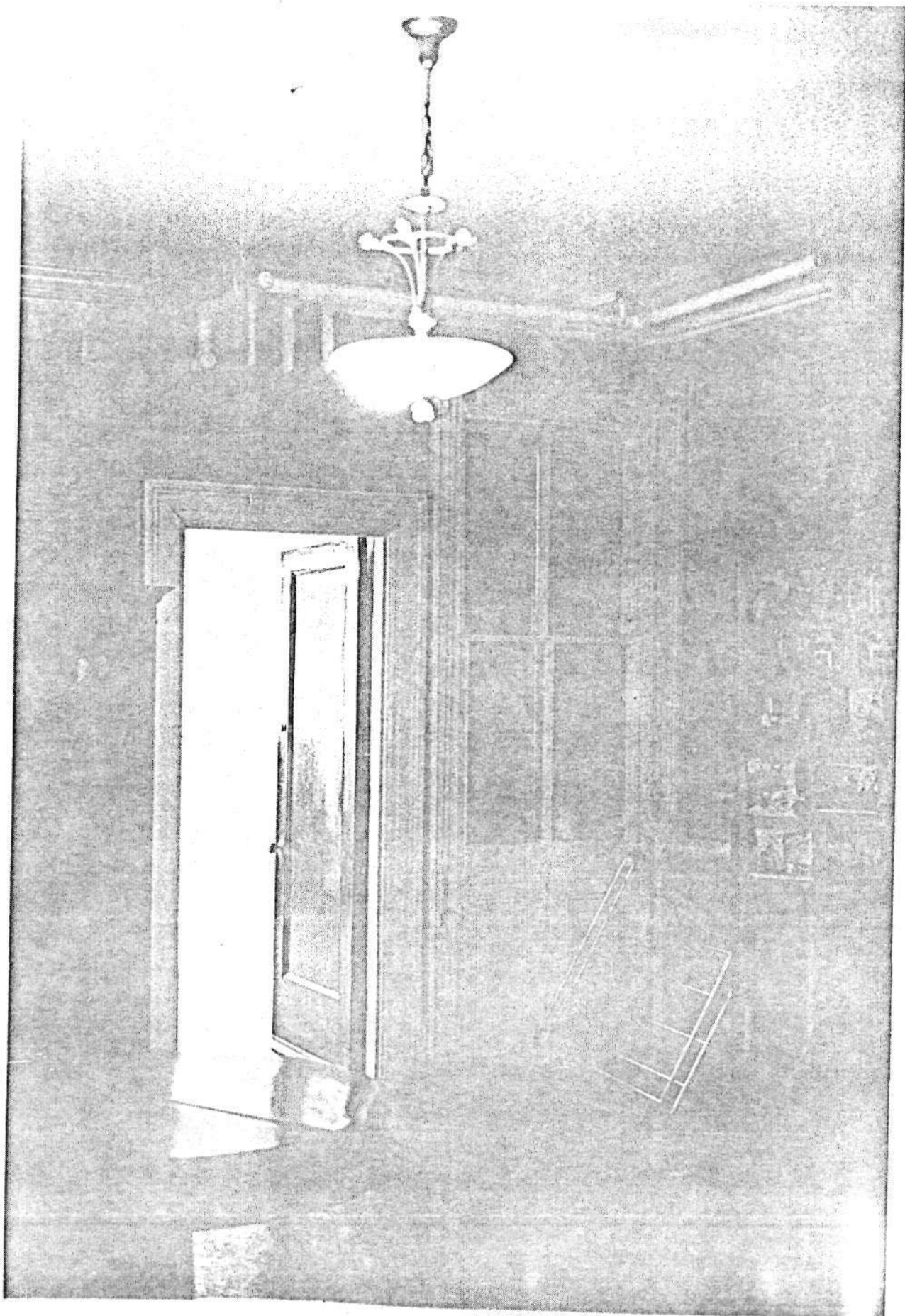


10/20 Interior, first floor fireplace on west  
wall of back parlor



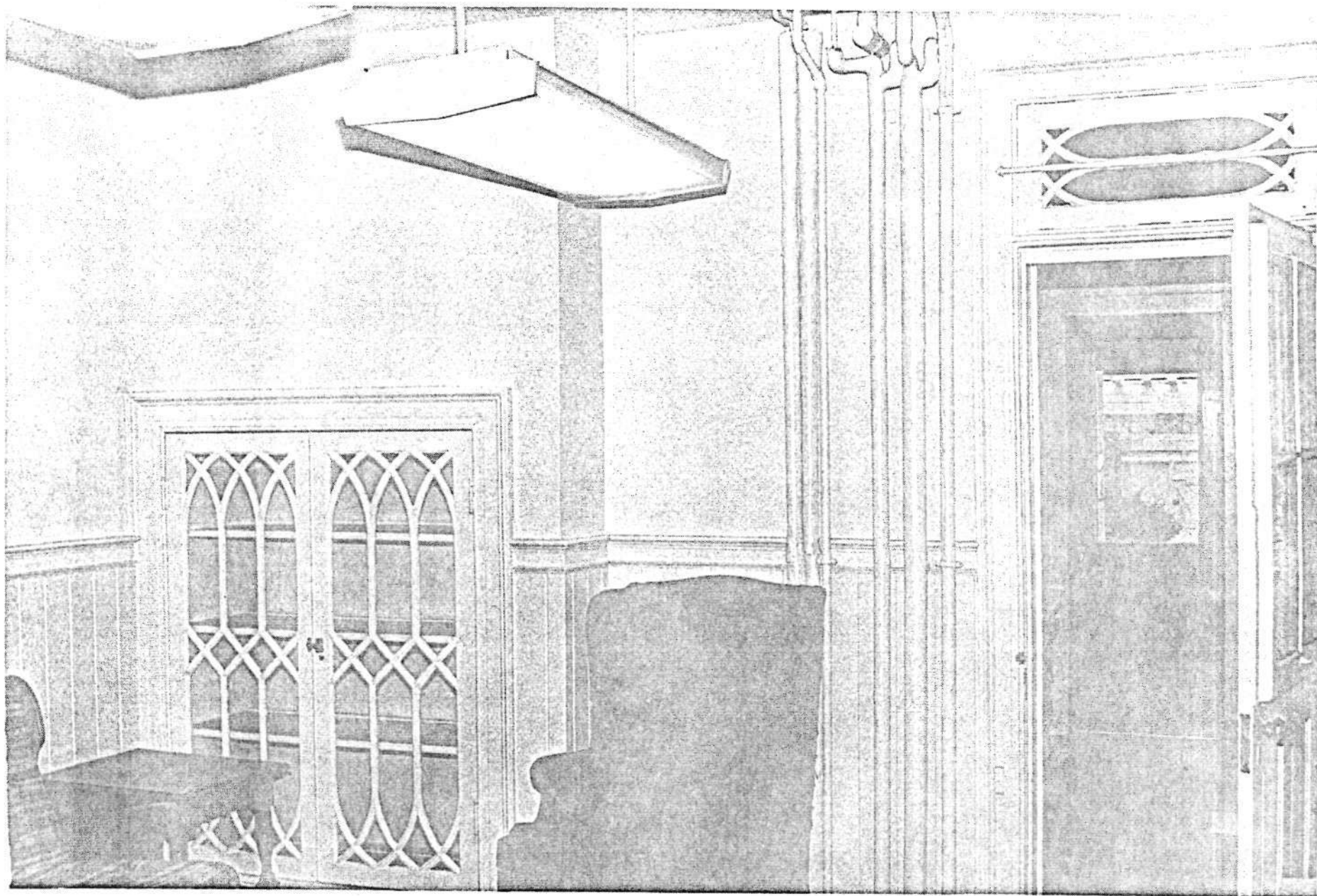
B-926

11/20 Interior, first floor, view of northeast  
corner of back parlor



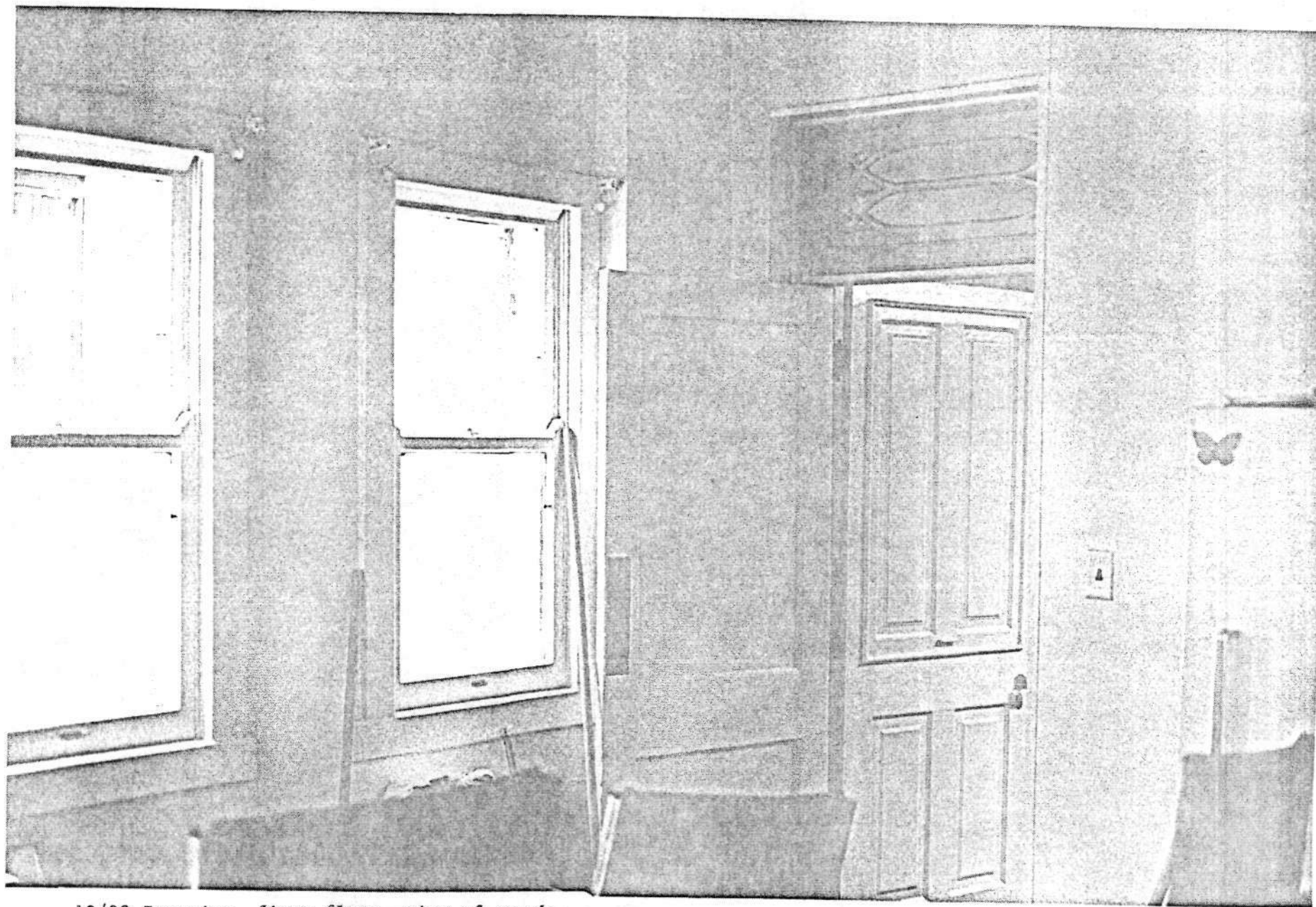
B-926





12/20 Interior, first floor, view of north  
wall of dining room

B-926



13/20 Interior, first floor, view of south-east corner of kitchen, transomed door is original back entrance into garden

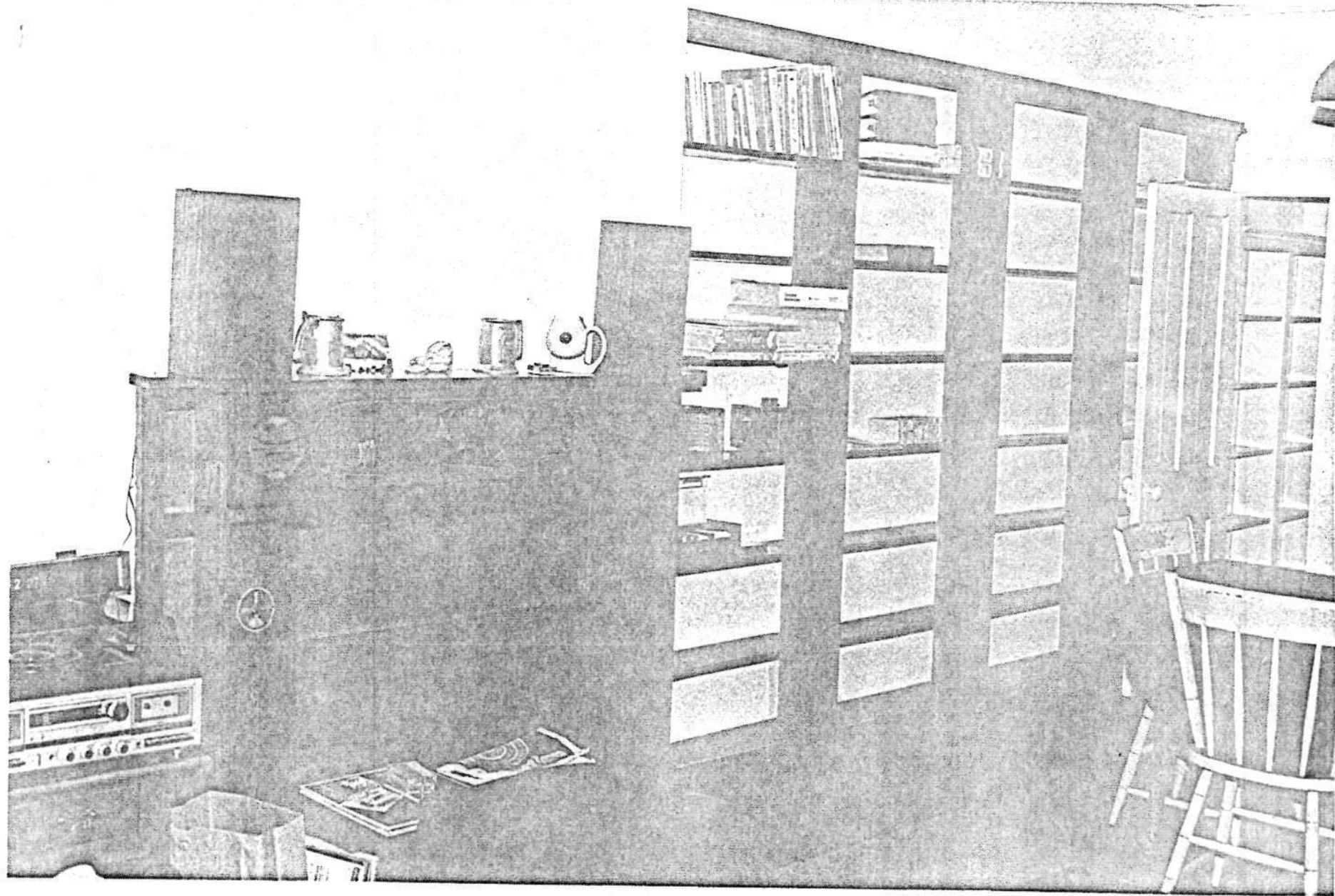
B-926



14/20 Interior, second floor, northwest corner  
of front room which Mencken used as a  
study

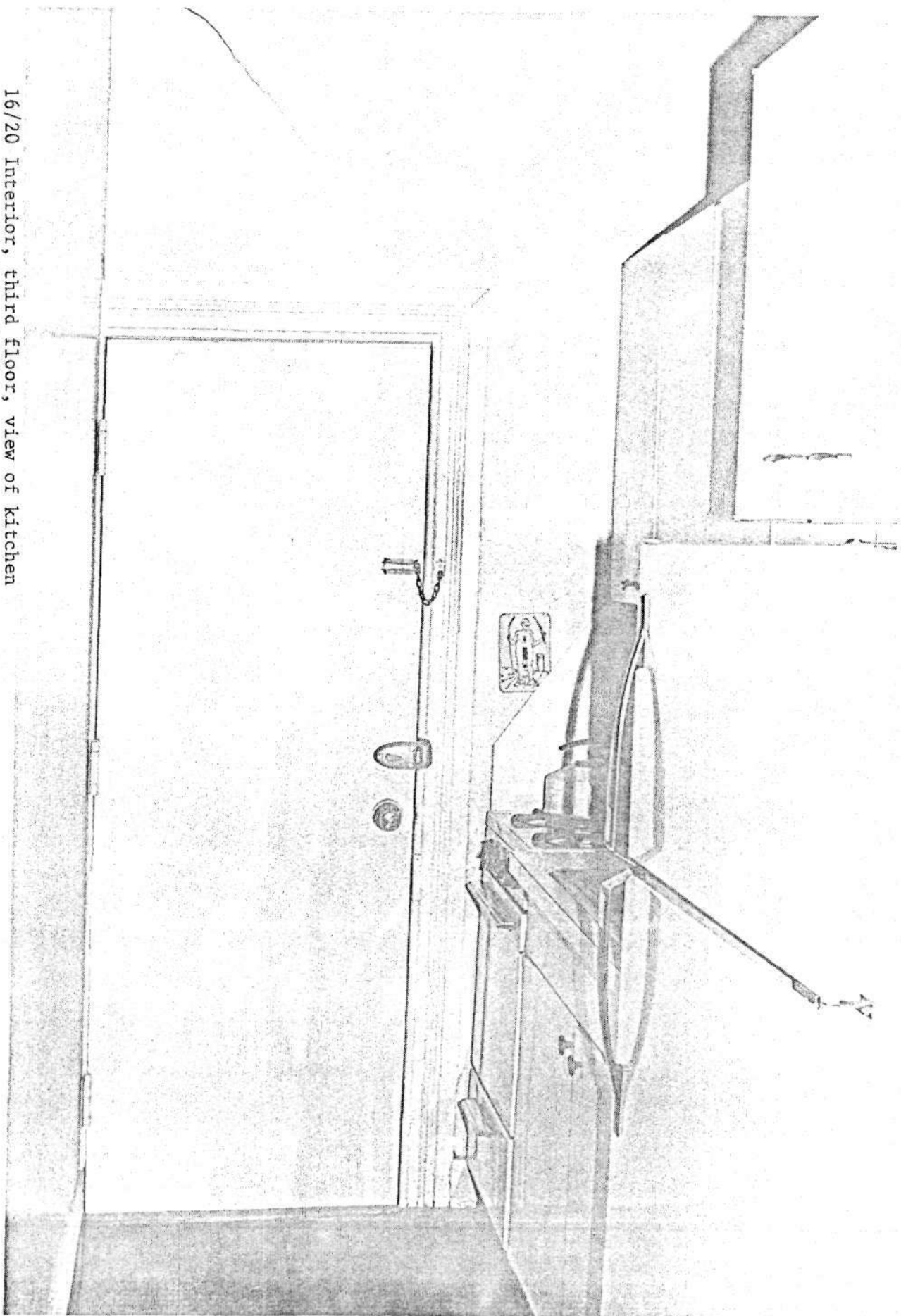
B-926





15/20 Interior, Third floor, view of north-  
corner of front room

B-926

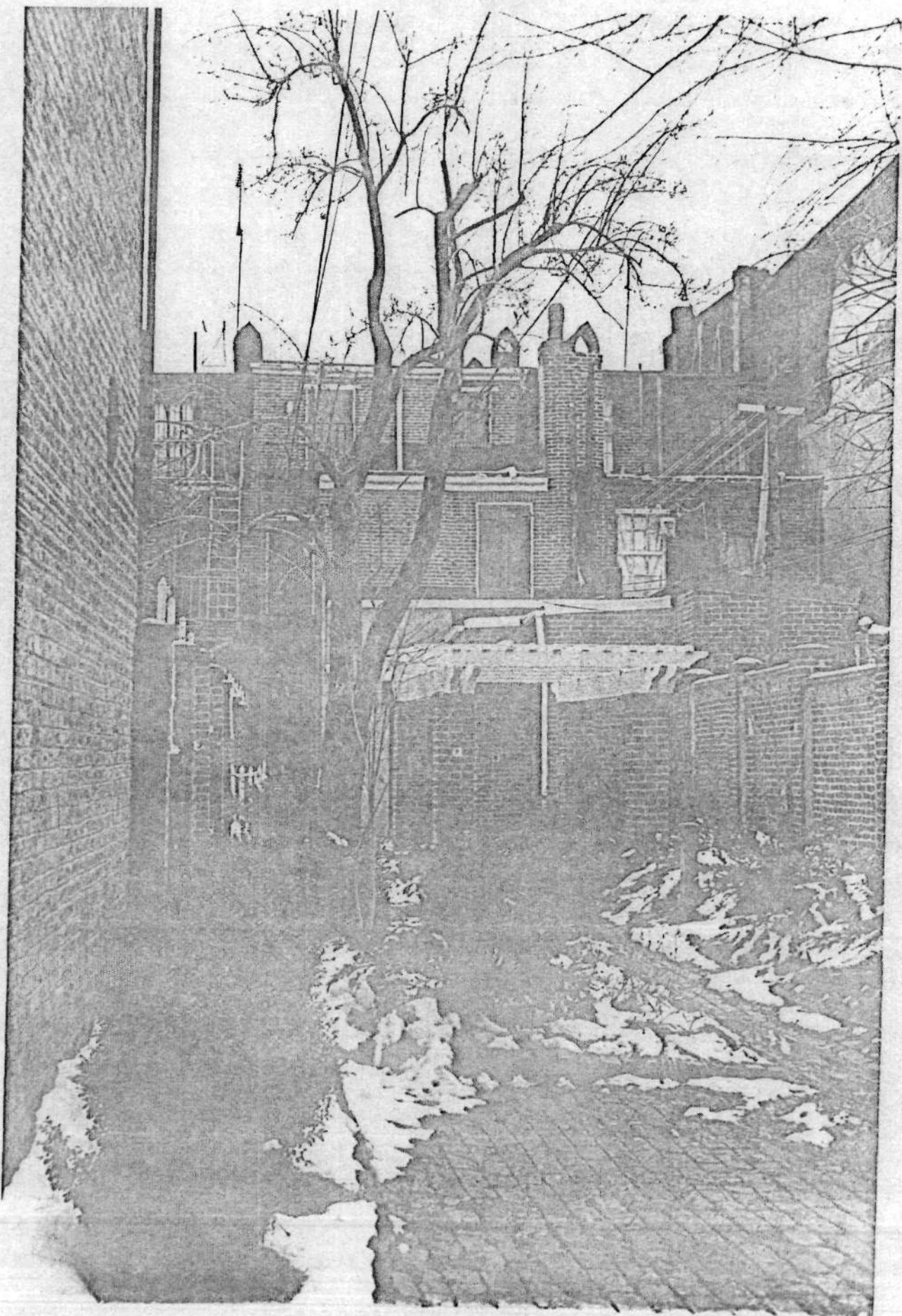


16/20 Interior, third floor, view of kitchen  
installed in el of front room, door-  
way leads into stair hall, partition  
on left was added when the kitchen  
was installed

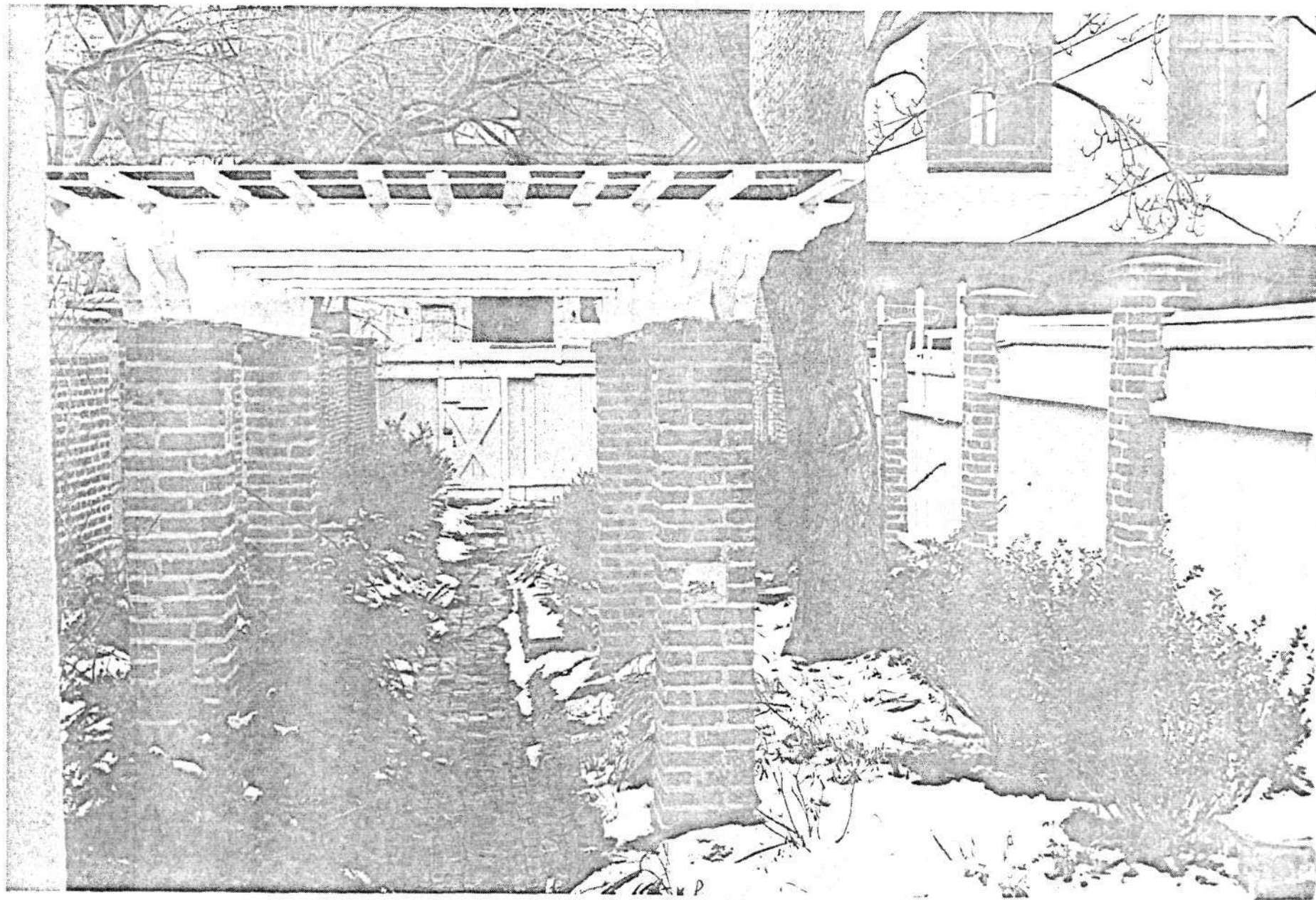
B-926



17/20 View of north or rear elevation of ho



B-926



18/20 View north, garden from house

B-926





Mencken, H. L., House

1524 Hollins Street

Baltimore, Maryland

Photo date: 7 February 1983

Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Annapolis, MD

View of north wall in garden

B-926

20/20





Mencken, H. L., House

1524 Hollins Street

Baltimore, Maryland

Photo date: 7 February 1983

Photo: Ronald L. Andrews

Neg. Loc.: Maryland Historical Trust

Annapolis, MD

View northwest of garden from house

B-926

19/20



---

Maryland Historical Trust

24 March 1986

Mr. Edwin C. Bearss  
Chief Historian  
National Park Service  
P. O. Box 37127  
Washington, D. C. 20013-7127

Re: H. L. Mencken House  
Baltimore

(B-926)

Dear Mr. Bearss:

Attached is a Continuation Sheet outlining additional information concerning the H. L. Mencken House which was designated a National Historic Landmark in 1983.

Sincerely,

J. Rodney Little  
State Historic Preservation Officer

JRL/RLA/pc

Attachment

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service****National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

For NPS use only

received

date entered

Continuation sheet    Mencken, H. L., House  
Baltimore City, Maryland    Item number    8 and 9    Page    5

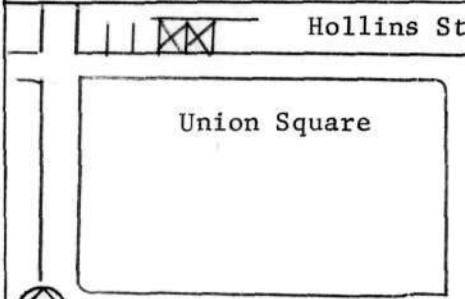
8. A notation in the 28 July 1883 issue of the American Architect and Building News (p. 47) states that Jacob Saum recently built 11 three story brick dwellings on Hollins Street, including the Mencken House, costing \$3,500. The architect is identified as W. Claude Frederic.
9. A major source of information on Mencken and his influence on American life is: Dorsey, John R. On Mencken, New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1980.

  
J. Rodney Little  
State Historic Preservation Officer

3-24-86

Date



<b>1. STATE</b> Maryland <b>COUNTY</b> Baltimore City <b>TOWN</b> " <b>VICINITY</b> Union Sq. N. <b>STREET NO.</b> 1524, 1526 Hollins Street  <b>ORIGINAL OWNER</b> H.L. Mencken/ <b>ORIGINAL USE</b> Residences <b>PRESENT OWNER</b> Univ. of Md./ <b>PRESENT USE</b> Residences <b>WALL CONSTRUCTION</b> brick <b>NO. OF STORIES</b> three		<b>HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY</b> <b>INVENTORY</b> B-926 (1524) B-927 (1526)  <b>2. NAME</b> Mencken House /  <b>DATE OR PERIOD</b> c. 1884 <b>STYLE</b> Baltimore Row House <b>ARCHITECT</b> <b>BUILDER</b>  <b>3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE</b>	
<b>4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION</b>		<b>OPEN TO PUBLIC</b> No	
<p>These two identical row houses have the elongated first story windows. The window sills, window caps, stoops, and cellar stories are marble. Brick color is different in the two houses but they share the same bracketed cornice with jig saw cut outs. 3rd story windows have marble keystones set in splayed brick lintels. 1526 has ornamental screens on cellar windows.</p> <p>1524 was the home of the famous writer-critic-satirist H.L. Mencken and for this reason is worthy of permanent preservation due to historical associations. There has been some talk of restoring the house as a Mencken museum.</p>			
<b>5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE</b> Endangered Interior Exterior fair			
 <p>Hollins Street</p> <p>Union Square</p> <p><b>6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)</b></p>			
<b>8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)</b> INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.  Charles Boch, Jr. 1508 Hollins Street		<b>9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER</b>  William Morgan Columbia University New York City  <b>DATE OF RECORD</b> June 22, 1968	